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SANTA ANA COLLEGE

el Don

Volume 76, Issue 7 | 17th at Bristol Street, Santa Ana, California 92706 | Monday, May 24, 1999

on friDAY

Confessions of Women from East L.A. will be presented at 8:00 p.m. in Phillips Hall Theatre. General admission is $8 and $6 for students.

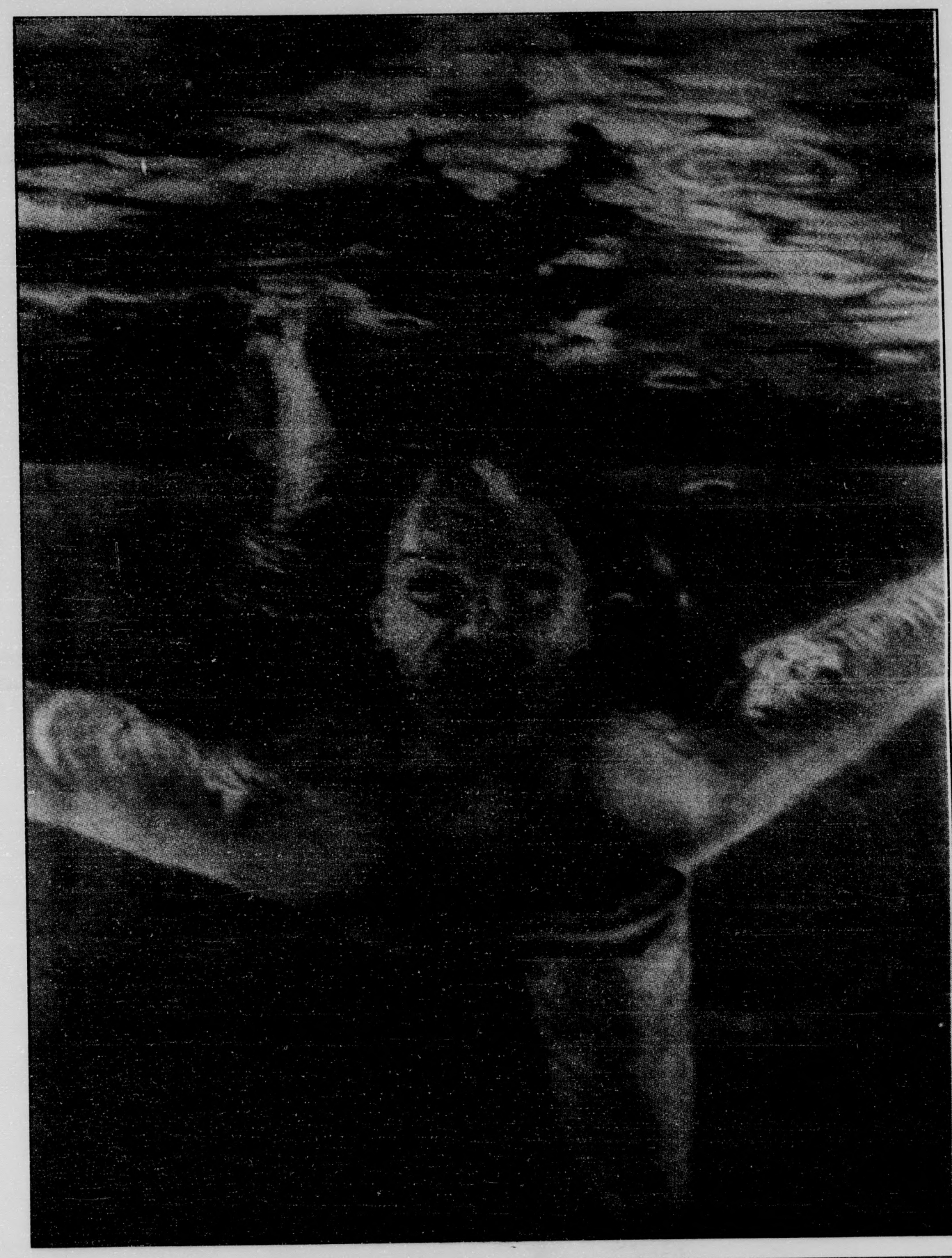
INSIDE:



Latin sensation Ricky Martin tests American waters with his first self-titled English album.

Feature, Page 7

DIFFERENT STROKES



Weightless by Dave Allenbach, is one of the many works now on display in Santa Ana College's art gallery during the annual student art show, *New Work*. For more on the exhibit see **STYLE, Page 4.**

Facilities moves to improve service

CAMPUS: New staffing aims at improving quality of campus services.

By Christie Menzel
el Don Staff Writer

Students and staff who say they are frustrated by the inaccessibility of Santa Ana College's facilities reservations office may soon find some relief.

The college announced the recent hiring of a full-time employee that will enable the college to extend facilities reservation's office hours and better manage the scheduling and delivery of needed goods.

Associated Student Government officers became frustrated with the facilities office which they say failed to provide equipment for at least one major campus event and various small events throughout the year, despite the events being scheduled more than a month in advance.

Betty Lam, recently elected ASG treasurer, requested tables and chairs for the March 22 blood drive sponsored by the Red Cross. The morning of the event Lam was informed that the tables would not be provided.

"I bought chairs and tables out of my own funds for the event, because (facilities coordinator) Maria (Garcia) is not

Please see FACILITY, Page 2

PART 2 IN A SERIES

Administrators laud benefits of central district office

MAKING SPACE: Some see new headquarters as a relief to overcrowding.

By Theresa Salinas
el Don Editor in Chief

In response to critics of the district headquarters move that took place in late October, some administrators argue that unforseen benefits have arisen since then, and contend that they outweigh the negative effects.

John Nixon, interim president of Santa Ana College, contends that the relocation allows district functions to flow more easily because of increased work space.

"Personnel was already outgrowing their office," said Nixon. "There were literally boxes stacked on top of each other. In the district office, however, they've almost doubled their size - which makes for better service."

District operations housed in the four-story building include payroll, personnel and facilities planning.

The departments were previously housed in SAC's two-story administration building and although the number of employees hired increased over the years, new office space was hard to come by.

"The district has also wanted its own place too...truley we don't have space for it all here at SAC anymore," said Michael Trevitt, vice president of SAC's academic senate.

Because numerous functions have transferred to the headquarters, a common complaint is that by being off campus, administrators are out of touch with students.

"It's more difficult with them off site," said English major, Kelley Murphy. "It's harder to take care of business. Administrators can't see what's going on because they're out of the way and students don't get good service."

In response, Nixon said that the services offered at the site "don't directly effect the students" and should not be viewed as abandonment.

Despite complaints that the vacant offices are a waste of money and a "broken promise" (the board of trustees initially vowed to use the abandoned offices as classrooms), plans are already in the works to make use of the vacated "S" building.

Financial Aid and Job Development / Job Placement will be moved to the structure, creating a "one-stop center" for enrollment services.

In turn, two new classrooms will be created on the second floor of the Johnson Building.

PROFILE

PICKING A BONE WITH SOCIETY

ACTIVE:
Anthropology teacher advocates human rights.

By Dawnielle Peck
el Don Feature Editor



Dawnielle Peck / el Don

With the help of a state grant, anthropology and sociology instructor, Sandra Wood, has made it possible for Santa Ana College to receive fossils from Israel and Africa. A new mutli-media system will also be unveiled in the fall.



VITAL STATS

- She likes to cook mostly ethnic and vegetarian meals - what her family calls "cardboard and zucchini food."
- Her mother is the only person that calls her Sandra - everyone else knows her as "Sandy."
- She considers herself an "information and documentary junkie."
- Likes animals, has two beagles and enjoys riding horses.
- Gardening is one of her favorite pastimes.

If Noah Webster had met Sandra Wood while writing the dictionary, chances are he would have felt compelled to put a picture of her along with the definition of "passionate."

As it stands now, without Wood's portrait the definition perfectly describes the remarkable teacher. She is an ardent champion of environmental, civil and human rights issues and tries to arouse those same feelings within her students.

As chair of Santa Ana College's department of anthropology and sociology, a full-time teacher, a wife of 25 years and mother of two, Wood still manages to remain active in the causes she believes in - she is involved in Amnesty International.

"It hurts your heart to see so much injustice in the world," the petite blond explained. "I have pretty strong feelings about social justice."

"Anthropology fit in with my interests in environmental and human rights issues," Wood said with a smile. "It allowed me to put my personal beliefs and my profession together."

After two years at Orange Coast College, Wood transferred to California State University at Fullerton, where she received her bachelors and masters degrees in anthropology.

From CSUF, Wood moved on to the University of California at Berkeley. There, she worked on her doctorate in medical anthropology for eight years.

While earning her doctorate, Wood had the opportunity to do field work in Indonesia. Living on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, she studied internal migration and infectious diseases on and off for almost two years.

As Wood speaks of the plight of the Indonesian people she worked so closely with, she becomes very somber and reflective. "I loved the Indonesian people," she said.

"I had studied the language and was well trained, but no amount of training can prepare you for the reality of field work," Wood explained. "Field work is famous for its trails and for its rewards."

Because of what Wood describes as the "internal politics of public health issues," her field work was cut short and she was unable to complete her dissertation.

"It's part of who I am," Wood said of her time in Indonesia. "Everything I've learned has helped me be a better anthropologist, teacher and human being."

Wood then wrote her second dissertation proposal and went to the Rockefeller Center in New York. Soon after that, her children came along.

After her second child, she said her dissertation didn't matter to her anymore. "That's not a very feminist perspective, but it's an honest one," she said.

"I did not finish my Ph.D. and I don't like anybody to think I did. But that does not invalidate my time at Berkeley."

The new mother decided to teach. Wood began teaching at SAC part time around 1989. Eventually, she was hired as a full-time instructor in 1996.

Today, the walls of her small office are lined with postcards from former students who write to say "thank you." Current students walk in and out of the small room - they are free to visit Wood whenever they need help.

"I encourage people to see me," she said. "It's tragic to see people walk away - it does matter to me if students succeed."

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VISA

Art course explores treasures of Mayan civilization

By Theresa Salinas
Editor in Chief

Snorkel in ancient water holes, cut paths through a dense Mexican jungle and learn about Mayan ceramics and culture on-site from two Santa Ana College instructors, while participating in an art class in January.

Set in the backdrop of the lush Yucatan Peninsula, students will learn hands-on about Mayan crafts and art without relying solely on texts or lectures, SAC ceramics instructor Patrick Crabb said.

Crabb will lead the excursion with art instructor Irene Soriano.

"I don't want this to be just as tourist thing," said Crabb. "While we will visit fascinating archeological sites, we will also lecture on the stops we come to."

The 12-day class is set for Jan. 10 through 22, 2000, and will begin in Chichen Itza.

Other historic sites in the Puuc region, where Mayan civilization once flourished, such as Merida, Uxmal and the pottery village of Ticul will be integrated into the art lectures.

The cost of the course is $1,726.50 including accommodations and airfare.

Open to all members of the district community, only 25 spaces are available.

An orientation meeting for those interested in the course will be held on Sept. 11.

Applications must be submitted by Sept. 20 and an initial deposit of $250 is due in late October.

For more information contact Patrick Crabb at (714) 546-5613.

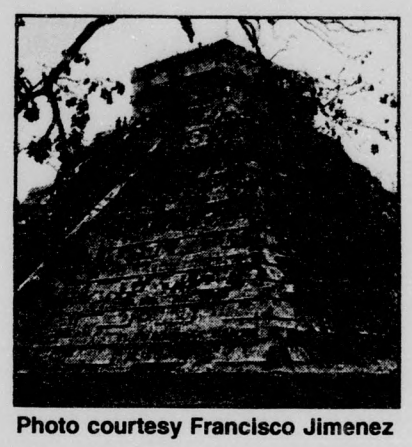


Photo courtesy Francisco Jimenez

Facility:

continued from page 1

reliable," Lam said.

Other complaints about the facilities reservation's office centered around its operating hours, which consisted of two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon.

Garcia has been at the forefront of the controversy, being accused of allowing too many requests to "fall through the cracks." But Garcia sites the office's small workforce as the problem behind many of the inefficiencies. Garcia has managed the department herself since taking the position nine years ago.

"It's too much work for one person to handle," Garcia said. "There are so many things going on... one part of my job is making 6,000 reservations for rooms per year." Garcia's responsibilities were expanded in late August when she began dividing her time between facilities reservations and Campus Services.

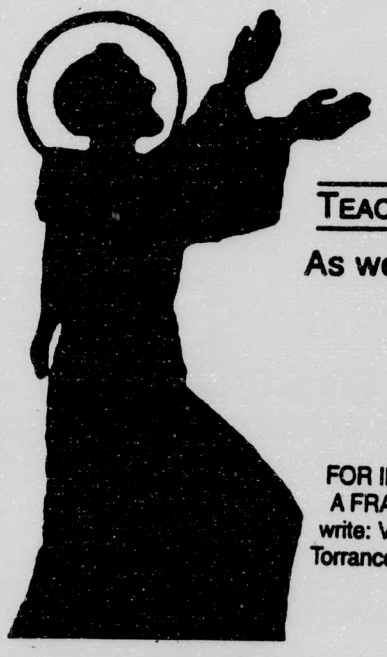
By adding a new employee to the Campus Services department, the college hopes to alleviate many of these issues.

Silvia Barajas, director of administrative services, said Garcia's work load will be much lighter, starting today, when the new full-time Campus Services employee begins working.

"We are hiring someone for a full-time position in the Campus Services department... allowing Maria to focus only on the facilities department," Barajas said. "The campus community has been very patient with me, but I think they will be pleased with what they get," she said.

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Creative streak

The 1999 Annual Student Art Show, *New Work* displays original creations from the past year

By J.P. Chabot
el Don Staff Writer

Proving once again the mastery of art teachers and students at Santa Ana College, the 1999 Annual Student Art Show, *New Work*, provides a forum where visitors stimulate not only their eyes, but also their ears and imaginations.

The variety of the works on display is staggering. Oil on canvas, glass works, photography, clay, mixed media, and computer graphics are only a few of the mediums represented in the show.

Some pieces, like *Thinking Process* by Tom Elling are interactive and move mechanically at the push of a button. "I made it because I was interested in the brain," says Elling of the brain-shaped *Process*. "I used to have a brain tumor, and ever since then I've been thinking a lot about the brain. This was one of my ways of dealing with that."

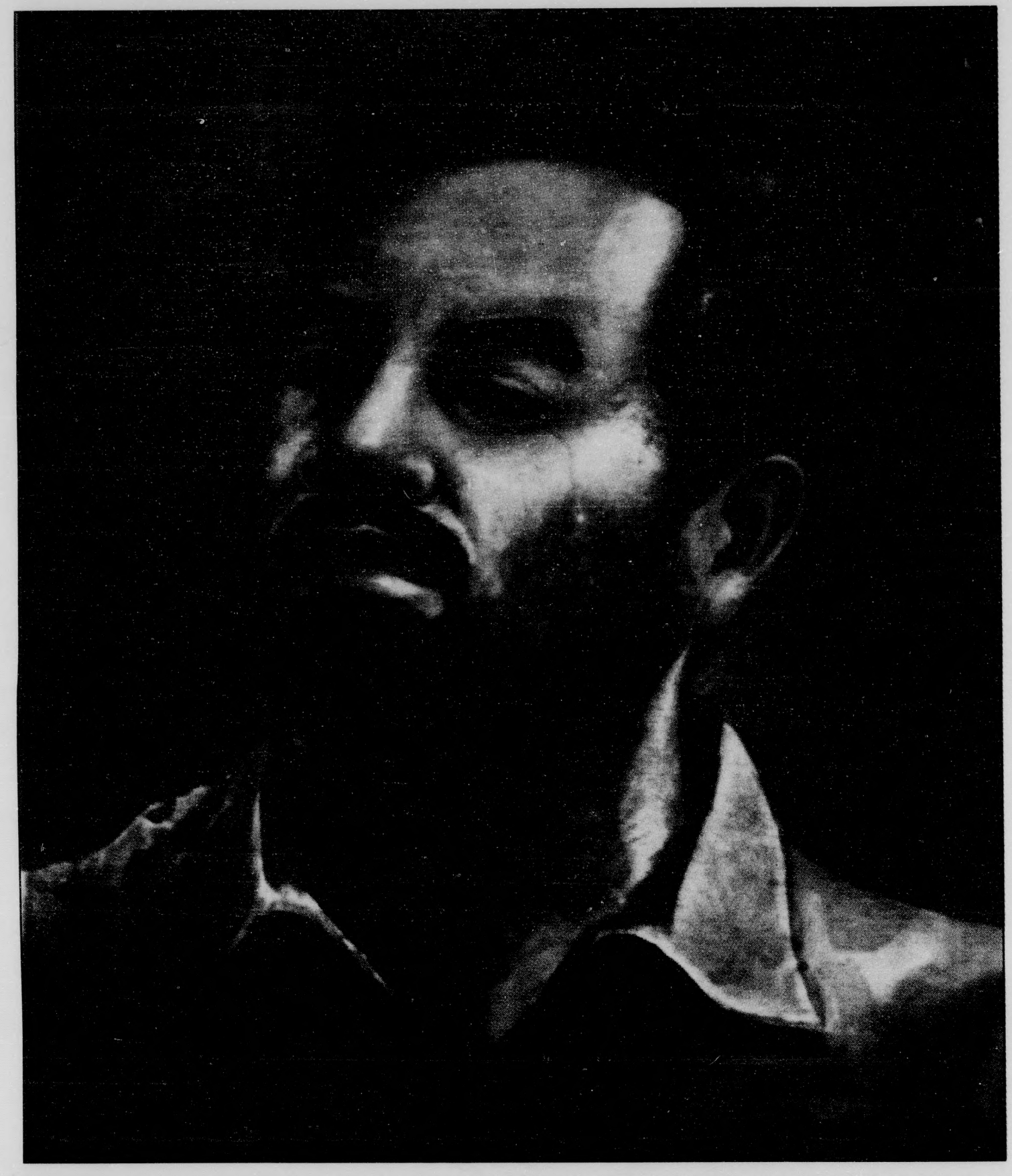
Other works more conventional, like *Aztec Legends* by Jose Lopez which depicts traditional Latino heritage images. "I always liked to draw as a kid," says Lopez, "but I never got into it." After being permanently disabled by a gunshot wound, Lopez turned to drawing as a way of expression.

Upon entering the art gallery, visitors are greeted by a 5 foot high painting of Mark Frank Montoya called *I'd Die to Skateboard*, by Jennifer Marker. Marker's displayed works, such as *Skateboard*, include some of the sports posters she worked on both as class assignments and as paid tasks for promotional activities for sports celebrities.

Diet Platter, a strange ceramic dinner plate with a spiky tube attached, is just the first in the series of Tom Elling's "nonfunctional functionals." Elling's point of the series is to create ordinary household items which "could be used if someone wanted to, but which no one would want to use."

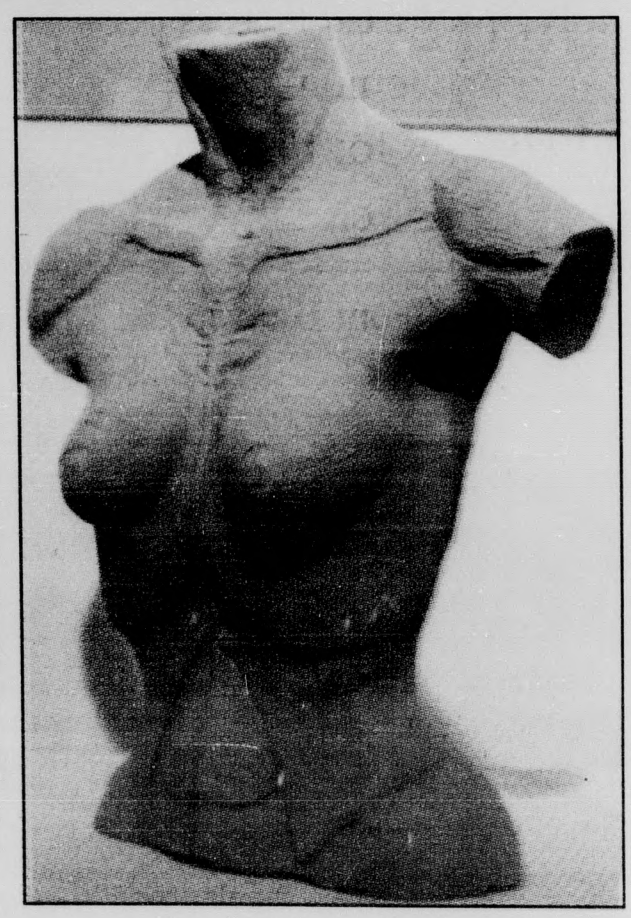
One of the most prominent artists on display is Wes Schaffner. A part-time student, he has created many impressive works while at SAC, including *Tower of Babel*. A tall mixed-media structure, *Babel* is made out of bits and pieces of found objects, such as record players, tape recorders, radios, telephones and one working television. Each object creates a noise when the tower is turned on, resulting in a chaotic "babble."

New Work runs through May 27. The gallery will be open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, and from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.



***Self Portrait,* and other works by Bernardo Cervantes are now on display in SAC's art gallery in the fine arts building.**





***Love, Envy, Jealousy, and Grace* is an oil on canvas work by Margie Tabor Zuliani chosen for this years student art show.**

Enrique Brito's works in clay, like *Torso*, were chosen as part of the student art show.

Felicity Soundtrack
Various Artists



The warm and fuzzy feeling I get from watching the TV college drama *Felicity* is the same feeling I get when I listen to the show's fantastic soundtrack.

The CD, mainly composed of lesser-known bands, (although it does feature tracks from Sarah McLachlan and Peter Gabriel) is quiet, but not weak - slow, but not dead. In short, it's the kind of music you would listen to if your relationship was in trouble or if you wanted to ponder life from underneath the covers of your bed.

Unlike many TV shows that birth a quick soundtrack for monetary reasons, the selections for this one seem to be carefully thought out. The music flows evenly from one song to the next, never stopping to throw in a cheesy Top 10 single that masses would flock to (like the *Dawson's Creek* soundtrack that added in "Kiss Me" by Sixpence None the Richer, even after the song had been blasted on every radio station.)

All the tracks are excellent, but of note are "I've Got a Feeling" by Ivy, "Everyday Down" by Joan Jones and Aretha Franklin's soulful rendition of "Bridge Over Troubled Water." Amy Jo Johnson (who plays Julie on the show) also contributes to the album, proving that she has more than just acting ability.

Rating (out of five): 4.5

Backstreet Boys
Millenium



Can a band sue itself for plagiarism of a previous album? If so, the Backstreet Boys will be doin' time because *Millennium* is a near copy of songs from its last CD, such as "Everybody (Backstreet's Back)" and "Quit Playing Games (With My Heart)" - only the new versions are not as catchy.

The work gets off to a good start with two of its strongest songs "Larger Than Life" and "I Want it That Way," but fails to really go anywhere.

The rest of the tracks are the slow ballads that probably go over well with teenaged fans at live shows, but make for dull listening.

Each song relies heavily on synthesized beats (which makes virtually every song indistinguishable from the next) and, even though the quartet of signers *can* indeed sing, the music is obviously not about artistic merit as much as it is about churning out chart topping singles.

Rating: 2

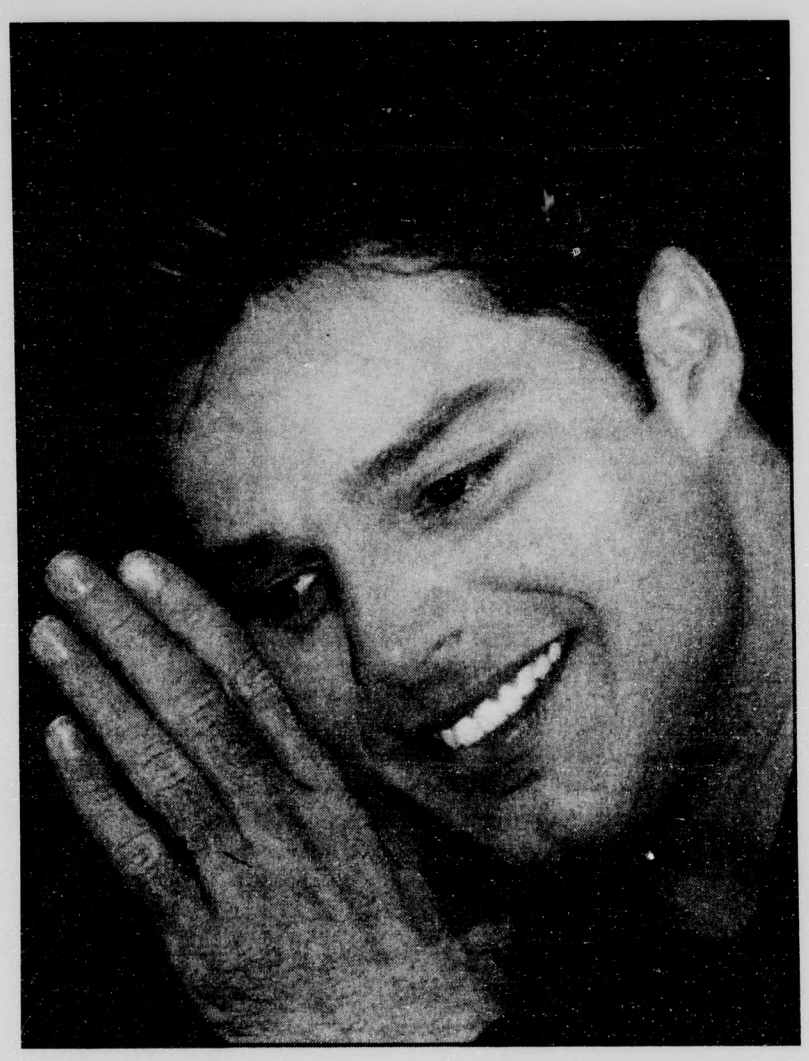
-Reviews by Alesa Kerr

Pop goes the Latin star



Ricky Martin
Ricky Martin

Previous Albums:
Vuelve,1998
A Medio Vivir,1995
Me Amaras, 1993



Ricky Martin's new English crossover CD loses something in the translation.

By Alesa Kerr
el Don Views Editor

Martin's latest CD sold 661,000 copies in its first week of release, the biggest debut of the year so far.

Photo courtesy www.rmartin.com

Sultry Latin superstar Ricky Martin released his first English crossover CD this month, *Ricky Martin*, to eager fans around the world.

But the album, which debuted at number one, fails to convey the passion and fervor exhibited in previous ventures such as *Vuelve* and *A Medio Vivir*.

Martin's songs are filled with sugar-sweet lyrics that don't deliver the soulful sonnets that the former *General Hospital* star is capable of.

Ballads like "She's All I Ever Had" and "Private Emotion" seem empty of real emotion. Even the highly anticipated duet with Madonna, "Be Careful (Cuidado Con Mi Corazon)" falls short, turning Madonna more into a backup singer then a real collaborative partner.

Most of the songs attempt to be bilingual (a few semi-Spanish words are thrown in or heard in the background for good measure.) While some of his tunes have catchy beats, they are noticeably watered-down.

And while the first single off the album, "Livin' La Vida Loca" is fun at first, it's hard to overlook the elementary rhymes employed with additional listens (*loca*, mocha, *toca* - we get the picture Ricky).

Its saving graces are when the former Menudo member sticks to his native tongue. The Spanish versions of "The Cup of Life," and "Maria" are the songs that make you want to dance (unlike the laughable "Shake Your Bon-Bon.") Even "Spanish Eyes" fares well because of its hint of Latin flavor. Their infectious beats and passionate lyrics remind true Martin fans of an artist they knew before he made the English conversion.

It's sad that Martin felt that he had to stray from his roots in order to make a mass-approved work.

Rating: 3

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Our VIEWS

Not such a 'Rosie' moment

While the message that talk show host Rosie O'Donnell delivered on her show about gun control last Wednesday was a powerful one that needed to be expressed, it came at an inappropriate time.

O'Donnell grilled actor Tom Selleck, who was on the show to promote his new movie, about the commercial he had just completed for the National Rifle Association.

Since the shooting at Columbine High School, O'Donnell has made several remarks over her disapproval of the NRA's stance on gun control.

The talk show host and Selleck debated for some time. "I didn't come on your show to have a debate," Selleck said, obviously annoyed. "I came on your show to plug a movie. That's what I'm doing here...this is absurd."

The Rosie O'Donnell Show has never been a place for public debate and for the host to make it such is wrong -this is not the *McLaughlin Group*.

Her daytime show has always revolved around a standard format - a smiling guest appears, tells a short, funny anecdote and plugs whatever it is they're currently involved with. If O'Donnell wanted to make a soapbox statement, she easily could have done it in an off- camera discussion or at the end of the show after Selleck left. To ambush a star on his personal beliefs - however misguided - is wrong.

The irony is that O'Donnell is currently a spokesperson for K-Mart. The cut-rate department store amasses millions yearly from the sale of rifles and shotguns (although it did stop selling handguns.) If the instant gun control advocate is so concerned with the shootings at Columbine, wouldn't she make the connection that shotguns were the weapons of choice by Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris and thereby withdraw her endorsement of the store?

Also, the host recently requested that the cast of Broadway's *Annie Get Your Gun* change a lyric that contained a reference to guns. The line read, "I can shoot a partridge with a single cartridge." Rightfully, the cast of the musical refused to change the classic Irving Berlin song.

What next? Will Rosie demand every book and song in history be changed to reflect her views? Apparently so ...at least if you want to be a guest on her show that is.



My VIEW

A guide to solving all the world's problems

With all the blame being passed around, it's time to ban anything and everything within sight

By David Gekchyan
el Don Staff Writer

I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the efforts of Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm in helping eradicate violence from the face of humanity.

Last week, the resorts announced the removal of gun-based video games in which people are the targets. This is only a step in the right direction in the ongoing battle to effect the "proper" American family values. I implore the rest of the free world to continue the crusade with the following logical steps.

1. Remove all video games in which players travel speeds in excess of 35 m.p.h. (25 m.p.h. when children are present). Government agencies have long maintained that excessive speed cause larger numbers of traffic fatalities. Allowing impressionable children to take part in racing games where speedometers regularly top 195 m.p.h. desensitizes them to excessive speed; leading to the rampant abuse of our highways in their later years.

> *"Let's just lock our children in a dark vacuum their entire lives and dictate exactly what they see, smell, touch, think and do."*

2. Ban high school football. While not as violent as the Ultimate Fighting Championship, it is clearly excessive in its promotion of physical aggression. More disturbing though, is its latent promotion of gay values. Men shower and dress in open and plain view of one another, often in 'community' showers.

3. Stop the sale of toy dolls. One look at Saturday morning cartoon commercials will show you why the pregnancy rate is skyrocketing. "Now you can have a little baby to love too! Just like mommy!" the commercials scream. These advertisements are merely underage breeding infomercials.

4. Bring religion back into the classroom (as long as it's Christianity, thank you). Kids ask many questions and the answers are often too unpleasant to answer truthfully. Religion is a quick fix. If life sucks, you can say it's because "God works in mysterious ways." It is wiser to accept your lot in life and place blame elsewhere instead of thinking independently (or even trying) and make effective change.

5. Ban all books. Excessive violence in film and television has degraded our society to where innocent teenagers have become cruel. Books are a natural extension to this (and everyone knows that most movies are based on books anyway). For example, the Satanic overtones of animal sacrifice for personal gain are clearly evident in titles like *Chicken Soup For the Soul.*

6. We must ban weapons. Ban assault rifles. Ban handguns. Ban propane tanks. Ban kitchen knives. Ban Swiss army knives. Ban sharpened bamboo. Ban black trenchcoats (or at least look suspiciously at anyone who wears one). Ban rap music. Hell, ban everything. Or at least control enough of it so that there isn't anything remotely interesting about them for goodness sake!

Do not misunderstand me, I realize we can't ban all these things, but certainly *something* needs to be done. Who knows what terror we would have encountered if Hitler had access to video games as a child.

We must change what we can. Then, when somebody else goes berserk, we'll change things a bit more. Then when it happens yet again, we'll take (read relinquish) control of a little more until laws exist for every infinitesimally possible situation.

But that will take too long. Let's just lock our children into a dark vacuum their entire lives and dictate exactly what they see, smell, touch, think and do. One people. One thought. One government.

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On Guard!

Fencing, a sport founded on tradition, has its own family history here on campus.

By Alesa Kerr
el Don Views Editor

Fencing, a sport founded upon traditions and created centuries ago, is truly a family tradition here at Santa Ana College.

The two classes offered have separate instructors that share a commonality: they are brothers.

Marv and Rex Torrez are not only the founders of the fencing program at SAC, but also the backbone of the activity.

The Torrez family got its start in fencing because of Marv's acting interest as a student at Long Beach State.

"I was a theater arts major in college and as an actor they said you had two tools to train: your voice and your body. They recommended either taking ballet or fencing to train your body. To me, it was a real easy choice," Marv said.

He continued with the sport and was successful. At the time, his brother Rex was 11-years-old and was often used as a partner for his brother to duel.

"He kind of needed somebody to poke at," Rex said laughingly.

Rex stayed with the sport and competed for three years when he attended California State University at Fullerton. Now, Marv's son Matt fences as do Rex's two sons. Even Marv's twin brother has dabbled with the activity.

In 1978, Marv came from Golden West College to teach here. Four years later, Rex came over as well.

Like a family ancestry, fencing is a sport with a history that dates back many centuries.

In the 16th and 17th century, the "gentlemanly" art of dueling became popular in Europe. Swords were used to settle matters of honor. Over time, training schools for the weapon were set up and rules developed. By the end of 18th century, duels came to a close, but fencing for sport remained.

Today, bouts between two fencers takes place on a strip that is 6-feet wide-by-40-feet long. The winner is the first to score a certain number of touches (normally five) on their opponent. Because of the quickness of which hits are made, most bouts are scored electronically with a light flashing to signal a touch.

There are three types of fencing: foil, epee and saber.

In foil, the sword is a thin and flexible blade. To score a point, the tip of the weapon must depress onto the target area of an opponent - which is the torso.

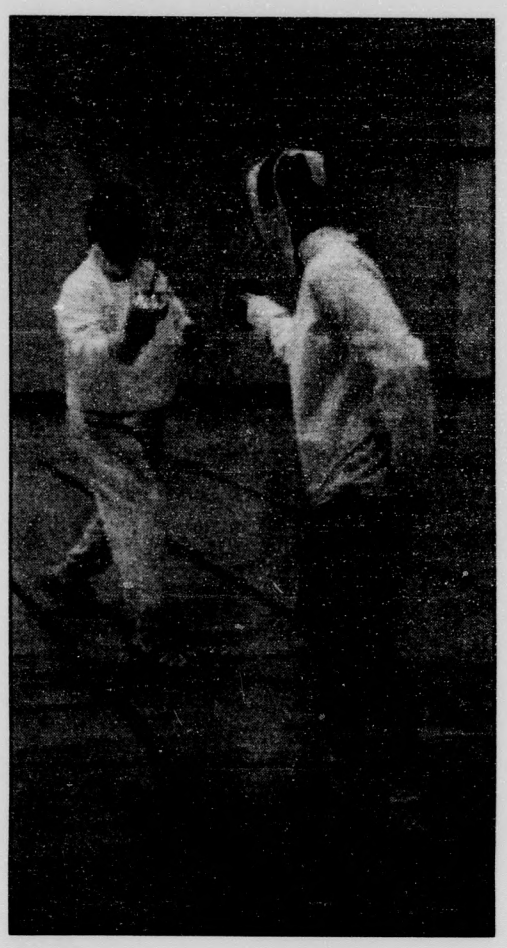
Unlike foil, the epee has a stiffer blade and a larger bellgaurd to protect the hand. The epee weighs twice as much as the foil and touches anywhere on the body count. With fewer rules than either saber or foil, epee bouts more closely resemble real street fighting.

The sabre descended from cavalry swords, so the target area is above the waist (as if you were mounted upon a horse.) The blade is light and flat and the weapon has a knuckle guard. Often, it is seen as the most aggressive of the three and unlike foil and epee, you don't have to just depress the tip of weapon for a point - you can slash it across an opponent to register a score.

Many colleges have opted to back out of the lesser-known sport. For a community college like SAC to have a program is indeed rare.

Rex says that while the sport has maintained a small level of popularity for a very long time, interest tends to flux.

"It's one of those sports that goes through phases. All it takes is a movie like Zorro to come out and a lot of people become interested again - and then that will taper off," Rex explained.



Instructor Rex Torrez (left) works with student Trenton Honda on his epee techniques.

But many people are disappointed to find that fencing isn't simply bloodthirsty combat or glamourous epic fights like those seen in movies. Fencing is a complicated and highly intense sport that takes much dedication and practice.

"I didn't know what to expect in the beginning," said student Paul Sturpp. "I had a romantic notion of sword fighting from Hollywood films, but I didn't know how different it was until I did it."

Rex feels it's important to let students experience the sport right away and to hopefully instill an interest about it into people.

"It's important to me to get the weapon in your hand and for you to get out there and have a chance to do it, to put the mask on and feel what it means to be a fencer," Rex said. "If you never pick it up again, that's fine because somewhere down the road you may talk to your granddaughter or grandson and say 'I fenced once.' That may be all it takes to get them excited about it. I'm looking more for the long term excitement that you pass down."

Many students had a curiosity for years, but failed to act upon it.

"I wanted to take the class 10 years ago, but I was working and going to school," said Nora Garcia, first time fencing student. "I had to drag my sister in with me. She wanted to do it too, but she wasn't sure. I told her it was now or never."

While athletic qualities such as speed, endurance and flexibility help in the sport, mental aspects are more important. To think quickly, maintain focus and listen to directions are critical. Rex says most fencers are usually in occupations that require them to think for a living.

"That's what fencing is all about - problem solving. You're being asked to make decisions and to react to them within a millisecond. Because of that, you develop a sense for making decisions and living by them," he said.

For the curious, the best way to pursue the sport would be to take the plunge and sign up for a fall class. No experience is required and the only thing the student must purchase is a fencing glove (which retails for about $20.)



Photos by Cindy Kerr / Special to the el Don

Student Nora Garcia readies herself for a duel. Garcia, who had wanted to try fencing for some time, signed up for the class with her sister, Magda.

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- *el Don* student newspaper named college newspaper of the year by the Associated Collegiate Press and Columbia University's School of Journalism gold medal winner.
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- Fashion design students won the most first and second place awards of any college at the California Community College Fashion Symposium.
- Rick Ho, design editor for *el Don* student newspaper, won the Society of News Design's Collegiate Designer of the Year award.

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